

Year Built 2005
Home Size 2700 Sq.Ft., 600 Sq.Ft. studio
Contractors:
Namaste Solar Electric
(see ad on page 23)
 Chris Doran
 Barret Studios
 Boulder Builders



The Doran Home

Changing in Style

Chris Doran

I feel that the solution to our environmental problems will not come in wrenching change, but in the sum total of many smaller, individual actions. All of us have different lifestyles, economic resources, and personal situations that will determine the actions we can take to mitigate our effects on the environment—the important thing is that we make the changes we can.

I wanted to implement this philosophy while designing my house, but I struggled with how to build green in a way that would be fitting for a vintage neighborhood, not to mention my budget. Fortunately, I discovered that there are plenty of green materials and building strategies that can be incorporated into any style house. This allowed me to build a home that takes significant steps in the right direction for our environment, but that looks appropriate in a traditional neighborhood. No matter what type of house you like, you can integrate green building materials and strategies that will also make your house more comfortable to live in and possibly cheaper in the long run.

I also wanted to improve upon traditional landscaping. Mine is not yet mature, but all of the plants were chosen for

low to moderate water usage, which is provided by a zoned irrigation system. In accordance with the National Wildlife Federation’s “Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary” principles, the landscaping is designed to provide food, water, and shelter for a variety of small wildlife. Most plants provide nectar, berries, seeds, or fruit, while trees and shrubs provide shelter. There are water sources in the front and back yards.

It’s also important to note that even while we build green houses, our behavior inside of them is also important. I try and make an effort to keep lights off, not use my HVAC system, and limit water usage.



Chris with Buster & Petey

ENERGY FEATURES

- 2.1 kW grid-tied PV system
- South-facing windows for solar heat gain
- High-efficiency HVAC system
- Zoned heating with individual thermostat controls
- High-efficiency appliances
- Icynene water-based foam insulation with high R-value
- CFL Lighting
- Double-pane, argon-filled Low-E windows
- Earth berm detached office

WATER FEATURES

- Xeriscaped yard designed to be “urban wildlife refuge”
- Timed irrigation, 24 minutes/week

GREEN FEATURES

- Backyard chickens eat kitchen scraps and provide fertilizer

RE-USE/SALVAGE FEATURES

- Hardi-Panel fiber cement exterior siding